

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
C.C.R. TITLE 19
FIRE EXTINGUISHER REGULATIONS

INFORMATIVE DIGEST / PLAIN ENGLISH STATEMENT POLICY OVERVIEW
Health and Safety Code Sections 13160 through 13190.4 contain the provisions authorizing the SFM to regulate the placement, servicing, testing, sale and marketing of portable fire extinguishers. In adopting regulations, the State Fire Marshal is to consider the standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

This regulatory action modifies several regulations specific to portable fire extinguishers in order to more closely align with the requirements specified in NFPA 10. "Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers". 1998 Edition.

The fee schedule for obtaining each of the five previously separate licenses for servicing portable fire extinguishers have now been consolidated into on single fee. The amount of this new all-encompassing license is the same as the sum total of the existing fees for each of the license types.

This rulemaking also places into regulation a previous internal policy permitting a public or private entity to perform specific acts of servicing their own portable fire extinguishers. This new Limited "L" License with specific requirements will be available to these public and private entities.

This rulemaking also modifies the "definitions" and the related provisions regarding "Inspection", "Maintenance", and "Servicing" of portable fire extinguishers to the definitions and terminology of NFPA 10.

Water-based premixed foam extinguishers, currently required to have a tear-down every five years will, under the proposed regulations require a tear-down every three years, which is equivalent to the requirements of NFPA 10.

The use and maintenance of the newly developed "halogenated / halocarbon type agents" and "water mist fire extinguishers" have also been added to the regulations.

The existing requirements for annual tear down of dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers is not going to be changed to a six year tear down of dry chemical stored pressure extinguishers is not going to be changed to a six year tear down at this time. SFM has decided to table this proposal until further study.

❑ See attached SFM informational Bulletin, dated 8-24-00.

There is no comparable federal regulations or statute addressing this issue.